

REMARKS

Claims 1-11 are pending. Claim 1 has been amended. Reconsideration and allowance of the present application based on the following remarks are respectfully requested.

Applicant appreciates the courtesies extended to the Applicant's representative during the February 12, 2004 personal interview with the Examiner. As discussed during the personal interview, Akiyama (U.S. Patent No. 5,182,626) does not teach a defect region provided in a portion of said semiconductor layer that includes an entire non depletion layer and at least a portion of the substrate. To clarify this feature, Applicant has amended claim 1 to more clearly recite that the substrate has an opposite conductivity type than the semiconductor layer and that the defect region is provided in the semiconductor layer and includes the entire non depletion layer and at least a portion of the substrate.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1-11 over Akiyama.

In view of the foregoing, the claims are believed to be in form for allowance, and such action is hereby solicited. If any point remains in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, please contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

All objections and rejections having been addressed, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in a condition for allowance and a Notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.

Please charge any fees associated with the submission of this paper to Deposit Account Number 03-3975 under Order No. 71357/275517. The Commissioner for Patents is also authorized to credit any over payments to the above-referenced Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,
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